



REMARKS

According to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the Amendment submitted on November 17, 2003 is considered non-compliant because the amended Abstract should have markings to denote changes being made. In response, the amended Abstract is showed herein with such markings.

Conclusion

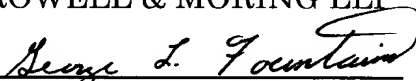
In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Dated: January 9, 2004

By



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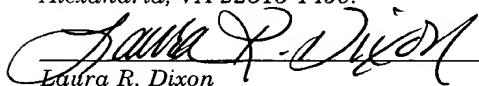
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Laura R. Dixon

01/09/2004
Date: